

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sensing system comprising a digital still camera and an image data receiving apparatus, wherein said digital still camera includes:

5 an image sensing device for sensing the image of a subject and outputting main-image data representing the image of the subject;

 a recording controller for recording the main-image data output from said image sensing device on a
10 recording medium in association with an identification code that identifies the image of the subject;

 a thumbnail-image data generating device for generating thumbnail-image data that represents a thumbnail image the amount of data whereof is less than
15 that of the image of the subject represented by the main-image data output from said image sensing device;
 and

 a thumbnail-image data transmitting device for transmitting the thumbnail-image data generated by said
20 thumbnail-image data generating device to said image data receiving apparatus in association with the identification code that corresponds to the corresponding image of the subject; and

 said image data receiving apparatus includes:

25 an image data receiving device for receiving thumbnail-image data transmitted from said thumbnail-image data generating device of said digital still camera and with which the identification code has been

associated; and

a display controller for controlling a display device in such a manner that the thumbnail image represented by the thumbnail-image data received by said image data receiving device will be displayed in association with the corresponding identification code.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said image data receiving apparatus further includes:

a code input device; and

an output device for reading main-image data, which corresponds to the identification code entered from said identification code input device, from the recording medium and outputting the main-image data.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said image data receiving apparatus further includes:

a user code input device for entering a code that specifies a user;

a user code discriminating device for determining whether the user code entered from said user code input device is legitimate; and

a printer controller for controlling a printer in such a manner that the image of a subject represented by main-image data output from said output device will be printed in response to a determination by said user code discriminating device that the entered user code is legitimate.

4. A digital still camera comprising:

an image sensing device for sensing the image of a

subject and outputting main-image data representing the image of the subject;

a first recording controller for recording the main-image data output from said image sensing device on
5 a recording medium in association with an identification code that identifies the image of the subject obtained by said image sensing device;

a thumbnail-image data generating device for generating thumbnail-image data that represents a
10 thumbnail image the amount of data whereof is less than that of the image of the subject represented by the main-image data output from said image sensing device;
and

a thumbnail-image data transmitting device for
15 transmitting the thumbnail-image data generated by said thumbnail-image data generating device to an image data receiving apparatus in association with the identification code that corresponds to the corresponding image of the subject.

20 5. The camera according to claim 4, further comprising an image-sensing controller for allowing succeeding sensing of the image of a subject by said image sensing device in response to completion of recording of the main-image data on the recording medium by said first
25 recording controller and of transmission of the thumbnail-image data by said thumbnail-image data transmitting device.

6. The camera according to claim 4, wherein a data line

that applies main-image data from said image sensing device to said first recording controller and a data line that applies thumbnail-image data from said thumbnail-image data generating device to said

5 thumbnail-image data transmitting device have portions in common;

said first recording controller recording the main-image data on the recording medium in response to pressing of a shutter-release button;

10 said camera further comprising:

a buffer memory for temporarily storing main-image data that is output from said image sensing device;

a first discriminating device for determining whether the shutter-release button has been pressed
15 during transmission of thumbnail-image data by said thumbnail-image data transmitting device;

a memory controller for controlling said buffer memory in such a manner that main-image data that is output from said image sensing device is stored in said
20 buffer memory temporarily in response to a determination by said first discriminating device that the shutter-release button has been pressed; and

a second recording controller for recording the main-image data, which has been stored temporarily in
25 said buffer memory, on the recording medium in response to a determination that transmission of thumbnail-image data by said thumbnail-image data transmitting device has been completed.

7. An image data receiving apparatus comprising:

an image data receiving device for receiving
thumbnail-image data transmitted from a digital still
camera and with which the identification code has been
5 associated; and

a display controller for controlling a display
device in such a manner that the thumbnail image
represented by the thumbnail-image data received by said
image data receiving device will be displayed in
10 association with the corresponding identification code.

8. An image data communication system comprising an
image data transmitting apparatus and an image data
receiving apparatus that are capable of communicating
with each other, wherein said image data receiving
15 apparatus includes:

an image data receiving device for receiving
thumbnail-image data transmitted from a digital still
camera and with which has been associated an
identification code that identifies the image of a
20 subject;

a display controller for controlling a display
device in such a manner that the thumbnail image
represented by the thumbnail-image data received by said
image data receiving device will be displayed in
25 association with the corresponding identification code;

an identification code input device for entering
the identification code; and

an identification-code data transmitting device for

transmitting data, which represents the identification code entered by said identification code input device, to said image data transmitting apparatus; and

said image data transmitting apparatus includes:

- 5 an identification-code data receiving device for receiving data representing an identification code transmitted from said identification-code data transmitting device of said image data receiving apparatus;
- 10 a reading device for reading main-image data, which corresponds to an identification code represented by identification-code data received by said identification-code data receiving device, from a recording medium on which has been recorded the main-
- 15 image data with which the identification code is associated; and
 a main-image data transmitting device for transmitting the main-image data read by said reading device to said image data receiving apparatus.
- 20 9. An image data receiving apparatus comprising:
 an image data receiving device for receiving thumbnail-image data transmitted from a digital still camera and with which has been associated an identification code that identifies the image of a
- 25 subject;
 a display controller for controlling a display device in such a manner that the thumbnail image represented by the thumbnail-image data received by said

image data receiving device will be displayed in association with the corresponding identification code;

an identification code input device for entering the identification code; and

- 5 an identification-code data transmitting device for transmitting data, which represents the identification code entered by said identification code input device, to an image data transmitting apparatus.

10. An image data transmitting apparatus comprising:

- 10 an identification-code data receiving device for receiving data representing an identification code transmitted from an image data receiving apparatus;

a reading device for reading main-image data, which corresponds to an identification code represented by

- 15 identification-code data received by said identification-code data receiving device, from a recording medium on which has been recorded the main-image data with which the identification code is associated; and

- 20 a main-image data transmitting device for transmitting the main-image data read by said reading device to said image data receiving apparatus.

11. A method of controlling operation of digital still camera, comprising the steps of:

- 25 sensing the image of a subject and outputting main-image data representing the image of the subject;
 recording the main-image data obtained by image sensing on a recording medium in association with an

identification code that identifies the obtained image of the subject;

generating thumbnail-image data that represents a thumbnail image the amount of data whereof is less than
5 that of the image of the subject represented by the main-image data obtained by image sensing; and

transmitting the thumbnail-image data generated to an image data receiving apparatus in association with the identification code that corresponds to the
10 corresponding image of the subject.

12. A method of controlling operation of an image data receiving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving thumbnail-image data transmitted from a digital still camera and with which has been associated
15 an identification code of a corresponding image of a subject; and

controlling a display device in such a manner that the thumbnail image represented by the thumbnail-image data received will be displayed in association with the
20 corresponding identification code.

13. A method of controlling operation of an image data receiving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving thumbnail-image data transmitted from a digital still camera and with which has been associated
25 an identification code that identifies the image of a subject;

controlling a display device in such a manner that the thumbnail image represented by the thumbnail-image

data received will be displayed in association with the corresponding identification code; and

transmitting data, which represents the entered identification code, to an image data transmitting apparatus.

14. A method of controlling operation of an image data transmitting apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving data representing an identification code transmitted from an image data receiving apparatus;

10 reading main-image data, which corresponds to an identification code represented by received identification-code data, from a recording medium on which has been recorded the main-image data with which the identification code is associated; and

15 transmitting the read main-image data to said image data receiving apparatus.